Town of Lewis

2026 Regular Town Board Meeting

August 18, 2026

Lewis Town Hall – 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Timothy Pierce, Supervisor
John Blades, Councilperson
Lanita Canavan, Councilperson
Stephen Denton, Jr. Councilperson
Terry Pulsifer, Councilperson
Brianne Drummond, Town Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Kevin Denton, Highway Superintendent

PUBLIC PRESENT: Glen Crowningshield, Gerald Spooner, Jeff Scott, Luke McNally, Holly Rippon-Butler

GUESTS PRESENT: None

Called to Order: Supervisor Pierce called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

GUESTS: None

APPROVAL OF REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Pulsifer, the July 14, 2026 Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes were ACCEPTED as amended as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
Councilperson Blades
Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 4:0; Abstain 1 (Councilperson Denton).

Motion Carried with Councilperson Denton abstaining due to being absent for the July meeting.

Discussion: The July 14, 2026 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes were accepted as

amended to include the following corrections:

- *Councilperson Canavan requested a change to the word "Card" to read "Care" – "Cedar Brook Child Care", on page 5 located in the first sentence.*

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES

On a motion of Councilperson Denton, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the August 3, 2026 Special Town Board Meeting Minutes were ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
Councilperson Blades
Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 4:0; Abstain 1 (Councilperson Pulsifer).

Motion Carried with Councilperson Pulsifer abstaining due to being absent for the August 3, 2026 Special Town Board Meeting.

Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated that these minutes are a little more fluid because of the nature of the meeting. He stated that they were not stationary for this meeting.

SUPERVISOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion of Councilperson Denton, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the Supervisor's Financial Report for the month of July 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 5 Supervisor Pierce
Councilperson Blades
Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Denton
Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

Discussion: Councilperson Canavan asked if the $500.00 rent was just for ACAP. Supervisor Pierce stated, yes, that was just ACAP, and that the $900.00 is not monthly and when we got the last one, we received five months at once.

Councilperson Canavan asked a question regarding the $973.16 NYCLASS withdrawal that looked like it was then deposited into the general fund. Supervisor Pierce said this is done quarterly because the tourism money has to be used specifically for tourism. Supervisor Pierce went on to state that we set it in a non-interest-bearing account, and it would sit there, but because we put it in a NYCLASS account the $973.16 isn't designated for tourism, so he removes it quarterly and puts it in the general fund.

Supervisor Pierce stated that he did switch some around for the water. He said we had some expenses in the water district, needed a new generator, new cards for the mobile reader along with updated software. He stated that some of that stuff is expensive.

Supervisor Pierce mentioned the overpayment under General Fund, "Overpayment – Dog Licenses" on the front page for $20. He stated that is where we put the donations for the SPCA. He said they had to create a fund/spot to put that and then they pay it out directly to them from there.

Supervisor Pierce briefly mentioned that repairs are running through the budget pretty quickly.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Supervisor Pierce opened the public comment period.

Jeff Scott said it was good to go through the old school and listen to people's ideas and it's good that the capital reserve fund money can finally be put to use. He stated that it's been more than a decade since it was formed. Scott stated that the idea of moving things from here to there and from there to here, his main concern is that the priority be the greatest good for the greatest number. He stated that he will listen to understand, but he doesn't

see how spending the money for that would be in the greater good for the people in town, long term, to make this change. He said they have to reduce long term expense to maintain this building and minimize the increase in the cost to heat this building, to the light and the cooling. He said insulation is a common-sense answer to that long-term control or reduction of the increase that we know is going to come. He went on to say, that's a long-term gain, long after we are not here, that will continue to benefit the people of the town. Scott said, at the meeting, Councilperson Canavan reminded him of what one board member said, that just to fix the foundation it would cost $250,000.00. He said he does not know where that figure is coming from or what they think needs to be done with the foundation. Scott said from his inspection of the foundation, almost 10 years ago, it's the north wall that has a hole that is letting cold air in. He also mentioned that he would be willing to go down there again and look. He said that all he is suggesting, at a minimum, is to get some of that expanding foam, get a company to come in and spray the foam over what already exists. Scott mentioned prevailing wage and the use of the procurement policy. He suggested to break it down into manageable bites, decide what the priorities are, and use the procurement policy. He went on to mention the deck out front that was done right before the town's bicentennial in 2005, which was maintained for 10 years and then the next 10 years not maintained and deterioration occurred. He said there is a lack of pride in that.

Jeff Scott went on to mention another topic that he said has come up in these meetings before about having meetings recorded by video and sound and having them on the website. He said Ken Hughes, Supervisor for the Town of Essex, is a computer person and if he is contacted, he'll provide all the information as to what needs to be purchased and then that can be satisfied. Scott said people were upset about access to these meetings. He stated, there's so much to be done and he knows that it can be overwhelming, but these things are important. He said we can build a sense of community.

He went on to mention the comprehensive plan and part of that was to have an annual meeting. He said 100 or more people came to express their ideas and their concerns. Scott said he has a copy of the comprehensive plan and that one thing that has been accomplished is the Veteran's Park and that maybe there are other things. Supervisor Pierce said there were a couple of other things, including Thrall Dam and Twin Valleys and we are pushing forward on things there. There was discussion about Thrall Dam and Jeff Scott mentioned that if someday you go by and the one frame, that he stated is rotting, is missing, he has taken it to his shop to repair. He concluded with saying he just wants this

money to be used to benefit the people of the town for many years to come. Councilperson Canavan said to Jeff Scott that he had a lot of good stuff there.

No one else who was present wished to speak and the public commentary period was closed.

DPW/WATER REPORT

a. WATER REPORT

On a motion of Councilperson Denton, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the Water Report for the month of July 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 5 Supervisor Pierce
Councilperson Blades
Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Denton
Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

Discussion: No discussion.

b. HIGHWAY/BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Highway Superintendent Denton said that they are still plugging away at the culvert replacement and bridges and the project up on Hale Hill is coming along. He said that has been all backfilled and the plan is to set the structure in place tomorrow morning. He stated that at some point, they'll set the two pieces in there and then they will get the back cover. He went on to discuss the bridge project on the Moss Road. He said they have poured on the north side, and the rebar is set on the south side, on the brook. He said there is no form around it yet. He stated that he does not know if they're going to meet the September 1st deadline for the school bus; it will be close. Superintendent Denton said they still have another pour to do on the other side and

then get the bridge across it. Supervisor Pierce said that he knows they were laid up on Hale Hill because of the rain. Superintendent Denton said they had to bust through the dam and flood everything they had and move all the forms. He said they are gaining on that because tomorrow they are supposed to set that structure in place. He stated that the hard rains we've been having are brutal. He mentioned the roads that got bad due to the rain. He said they had to fix a small spot on the Redmond Road, and now they have beavers in the brook down on the Hyde Road. He stated that they fought with that for 3-4 hours this morning before they finally got that open. Superintendent Denton said the county reported they had some on County Route 10. He said they are dealing with the weather and trying to get these bridge projects done. He said he can go up there and unplug all that, do all kinds of work and go back there three days later and it's plugged again.

Supervisor Pierce mentioned the grader. Superintendent Denton said it is back up and running; it was a bad ground wire that broke inside of the plug. He said they are trying to get some of the shoulders and ditches pulled. He stated that they are just filling in trying to keep ahead of stuff.

Superintendent Denton said their plan is to pave the first week of September up on Hale Hill. Councilperson Pulsifer asked if the contractor was Kubricky. Superintendent Denton said no, the contractor is John Thompson, who is from downstate. Councilperson Canavan said she was up there before she came here and it looked good. There was additional discussion regarding the rainfall.

Supervisor Pierce asked if there were any further questions for Superintendent Denton. Councilperson Canavan asked about a Jay Mountain FEMA project update. Councilperson Pulsifer stated that was the six culverts. Superintendent Denton said they are trying to get there. Supervisor Pierce stated hopefully the weather settles down.

Jeff Scott said that he appreciated the grading that's been done on the Hyde Road and that it looks really good.

Superintendent Denton said once they get the shoulders and ditches cleaned up on our blacktop road, their groom tractor will be turning into a mowing tractor, and they

will start rolling one side. He mentioned the grass being high and even the state roads haven't been mowed yet. He said they just can't keep up. Supervisor Pierce stated that there was some discussion down there about looking for a replacement. Superintendent Denton said the 1983 John Deere is old and he keeps it going, but there's going to be a time they will have to replace it, as it's going to be hard to buy parts.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Essex County DPW Superintendent
   a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated he didn't get the letter out in time for the meeting. They set the speed limit on Ray Woods Road to 35mph and they are just waiting for that order from the Department of State. He said it's ready to be posted anytime. Superintendent Denton agreed that it is ready to be posted anytime now. Supervisor Pierce said there was some discussion that they'll do it early for safety reasons; and that it can't legally be enforced, but it would be there and maybe caution people to slow down. He said they did mark where they wanted to put the signs. Superintendent Denton said it is all marked out and that they have it all ready to go.
2. Thank You Letter – CATS
   a. Discussion: Letter attached. Supervisor Pierce said he got a thank you letter from CATS. He stated that they are looking now at working on their septic project. He went on to say they got a temporary certificate for that and an engineer looked at it.
3. Well & Septic Assistance Program
   a. Discussion: Attached. Supervisor Pierce said he posted this on the website.
4. Discharge of Mortgage
   a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated this was a tricky request and that it came from something in the 1990s involving Ms. Beatrice Lytle. He said there was some confusion on that. He stated that he went through all the minutes and dug through everything back in 1990, when it was issued and there was a town lien put on. He stated that it appeared to be one of those CBDG type things. He said since they were well past the five years on that, and there was confusion as to what property it belonged to, they issued a discharge. Supervisor Pierce said that they're selling the house to one of the grandsons, Kenny. He went on to state he looked through all the records, went through official minutes and went

through some of the old deeds and what he found was the deed on the house was resolved in the '70s. He said this was in the '90s after the grandfather passed and she was elderly. He stated that the wording was that of what you would see in your current contracts; you get a grant; you have to stay in it for so many years before you can sell it.

5. Email – David Mason
   a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said he received a message from David Mason regarding concerns about low flying helicopters. He said there were no low flying helicopters here, as he explained to Mr. Mason. He stated that Mr. Mason thanked him for that. Supervisor Pierce went on to say that he heard them fly over at camp up in Port Kent. Superintendent Denton said there was a motorcycle accident on the Northway that night.

OLD BUSINESS

1. NY State DOT Route 9 Safety Study
   a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said he wanted to revisit the NYS DOT Route 9 Safety Study and that they will provide an assessment back to him, he thinks, in September. He said he didn't know if the board had any response on either of the concepts, concept A or B, that they reviewed last month. Supervisor Pierce said he will bring back the information from both of them once he receives them. He asked if anyone had any comments that they would like to send back to them. Councilperson Canavan said one thing that she was thinking about is the stop signs she has seen in Au Sable, they have the solar panels with lights around them. She asked if that is something that could or should be considered. Supervisor Pierce said he doesn't know if that's considered part of what they're looking at. He asked what councilperson Canavan meant and if it was just the stop signs themselves. Councilperson Pulsifer said they are upgraded with illumination and that they do them for the yield signs and for the crosswalk signs now too. Councilperson Canavan stated that she has seen the crosswalk signs. Supervisor Pierce said he could ask about that.
2. CATS Twin Valleys Project Update
   a. Twin Valleys Open House – July 16th; Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said they had the open house on July 16th. He said it was a pretty good crowd; they cut the ribbon and said a few words. He said those meetings are ongoing. He stated there's some possibility of grants for next year and hopefully, over the course

of the next several months, they will have some more information and be able to provide updates on that.

3. Mt. Inez – Thrall trail connector; Discussion: Supervisor Pierce mentioned the original map and the original stuff from the Thrall Dam project. He stated this was something that was originally envisioned. He stated that there is a small piece of county property that went parallel to Ray Woods Road, where the trail with the power lines stops and heads right across from where the trail is on Mt. Inez. He said the trail was to be included in it, but it had been omitted. Supervisor Pierce stated that he got the county to approve that and grant use as part of the project. He said that portion will be walking only. He stated that if you look at the map, some of them are walking, some are horseback and some are ATV. He said this part because of the narrowness of it, will be walking only because you don't want the ATVs charging up to where they can no longer go. Supervisor Pierce stated that they couldn't guarantee they would get it done this year, but they're going to put that trail in.
4. Capital Reserve Project Discussion
   a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said he is looking for direction on this. He said he needs to find out for sure if the county is going to pull out of the basement and then that will be open. He stated, if they're going to stay and pay $900 a month then they kind of want to leave that. Councilperson Denton said he thought it was set that they were leaving. Supervisor Pierce said they had told him that when they signed the contract again in March, but there has been no further discussion. He said that is information he needs to get to bring back and that the contract with them ends December 31st. Supervisor Pierce said we talked about one thing: if we're going to stay here, what's the cost to do everything here and what's the cost to move over there. He mentioned the upgrades that Jeff Scoot talked about – heating, basement, foam insulation, etc. Supervisor Pierce mentioned opening up the basement over there for a full, larger meeting room. Councilperson Denton said that Jeff Scott made a good point about the basement and that one thing that can be done is to go in with spray foam. Councilperson Denton said that they should at least start there. Jeff Scott stated that it is the north wall and that it's a crawlspace not a basement. Supervisor Pierce said it would be an outside bidder, and he can look at prices on that to start with. Councilperson Denton said he does not know how the rest of the board feels, but we have kicked this can down the road for a long time. He said

it's almost like somebody needs to sit down or a group and identify things that can be done right now – some of it being simple repairs or even heat pumps. Councilperson Denton said even a heat pump might do some good, in the winter you'll have heat and, in the summer, you'll have air. He suggested that may be a good initial step and get some quotes on that. He said they need to make a list and prioritize and just start moving on some of the things. He stated that we don't need to spend all the money on it, but we do need to do some stuff for this building. Supervisor Pierce said regardless it wasn't a matter of abandoning either building, it was a matter of how we can fix these buildings up and make them more useful for town purposes. Supervisor Pierce said that's not a bad idea to look at and to cut it up into small steps and see what can be done and what the cost is and go from there. Councilperson Blades asked what the JCAP grants can be used for. Supervisor Pierce said they got the grants now and he will have a chat with them and see. There was discussion as to examples of what the money can be used for. He said they could have a bench built for construction here and the egress needs to be repaired. The grant is up to $30,000.00, which Supervisor Pierce stated that Councilperson Pulsifer had said that wouldn't get you very far, but it's something. Councilperson Blades suggested if they can somehow multi-purpose it, so that in the future you may switch things back. Supervisor Pierce said one way or another they'll want to make some changes, but they're on a short time frame. He said that has to be done by mid-September. There is discussion as to what Supervisor Pierce used that grant money for in the past – filing cabinet, shredder, air conditioners. He mentioned that Judge Monty needs a robe and that's going to be on the list. He mentioned they will need a few shelves. Supervisor Pierce said he will chat with them and get some information out to everyone. Councilperson Canavan said Jeff Scott mentioned insulation and she is sitting here looking at the spaces in the ceiling tiles and there goes your heat and it's not just here, in the Clerk's office it's the same thing. Supervisor Pierce said we lose a lot of heat in both places. He said he doesn't think we want to ignore both buildings and he thinks we should find a way to do the best we can with both, with the funds that we have. Councilperson Denton said he thinks we should make a call to whoever the town uses for plumbing and heating and have them come here and explain a little bit about the heat pumps and what it will and will not do. He went on to say they should get the professionals to come in, that knows what they are

talking about, to set them in the right direction. Councilperson Blades suggested resources through ACAP. Councilperson Canavan said she feels like they did that. Supervisor Pierce said it was done. He said that wasn't overly expensive. Jeff Scott said $9,200.00 in 2017. Supervisor Pierce said to Superintendent Denton that he thought the foundation had been looked at a few times. Superintendent Denton agreed and said we've looked at it a few times. Supervisor Pierce said he doesn't know what the prices are nowadays. Superintendent Denton said everything today is outrageous anyway and it'll scare you. Supervisor Pierce said he will do his best to come back with more information and get it out to the board again. He stated that he can't foresee a plan being resolved this late in the year, but he wants to have a plan to go forward by next spring. Councilperson Denton suggested looking at the north wall to see what we can do with that; at least get something done prior to the cold weather, as it may help a little bit.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Youth Commission Report – Unavailable
   a. Discussion: No discussion.

2. Water Rent Report – In Packet
   On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the Water Rent Report for the month of July 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,
   AYES: 5 Supervisor Pierce
   Councilperson Blades
   Councilperson Canavan
   Councilperson Denton
   Councilperson Pulsifer
   NAYS: 0
   ABSENT: 0

   Motion Carried 5:0

   a. Discussion: No Discussion.

3. Landfill Report – In Packet

   On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Pulsifer, the Landfill Report for the month of July 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,

   AYES: 5 Supervisor Pierce
   Councilperson Blades
   Councilperson Canavan
   Councilperson Denton
   Councilperson Pulsifer

   NAYS: 0

   ABSENT:

   Motion Carried 5:0

   a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said Jana is keeping track (of dump sticker sales) since they approved for her to work those two days. He said some days are better than others, but she's got a good accounting of it. He said he asked her to have the final report to him before this ends on Labor Day. He said it'll show what she's made during those extra four hours, two on Tuesday and two on Thursday and see if it's worthwhile. He said right now it seems that she has been bringing people in and they're buying some tickets from her. Supervisor Pierce stated that he will have that for next month.

4. Animal Control Report – No Report.
   a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said we had one complaint and that he contacted Dog Control Officer McCarroll last Monday. He said they got a report of two or three dogs, two dogs and a puppy, running in the road down near the Christmas Tree Lane area. He said DCO McCaroll went down and all the dogs were in the house and there were no problems to report.

5. Codes Report – In Packet.

   On a motion of Councilperson Denton, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the Codes Report for the month of July 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,

   AYES: 5 Supervisor Pierce
   Councilperson Blades

Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Denton
Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0
ABSENT:

a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said Code Officer McCracken issued a three-page report on his contacts and visits. He said they have been busy.

6. Town Budget Calendar
   a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said he wanted to get the calendar out – that's coming up. He said he will send out notices. He mentioned that he got a call from EMS today and said he'll get them out next week. He said what is listed on the right is the Town Law which recommends what dates to choose. He stated that he may alter the budget workshop because he may be out of town that day.

7. Introduce Local Law #1 of 2026, Flood Damage Prevention Law
   a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said in the 1990s it was updated at one point, but because of the new floodplain maps that were approved, which he has in the office now, we're required to update the Local Law. He said they sent out a local law and he just needed to plug in the town information on it, which he did. He said that law is here for review before next month and he just needs a resolution to schedule a special hearing for the proposed Local Law #1 of 2026, which will replace the Local Law #1 of 1991. Supervisor Pierce stated that the special hearing will be at 6:45 PM on September 8, 2026, 15 minutes before the regular town board meeting.

RESOLUTION 26-8-2

SCHEDULING A SPECIAL HEARING TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2026, WHICH SHALL REPLACE LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 1991, THE FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION LAW

BE IT RESOLVED, that a special public hearing be scheduled and conducted at a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewis on September 8, 2026 at 6:45PM, at the Town Board Meeting Hall, 8574 US Route 9, Lewis NY 12950, to consider the proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026, which shall replace Local Law No. 1

of 1991, the Flood Damage Prevention Law;

That the proposed Local Law be made available for public review at the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website prior to the hearing;

That all persons interested in the subject matter of the proposed Local Law be invited to attend and present testimony or written comments at the hearing;

That the Town Board shall consider all testimony and written comments received at the hearing in making its final decision on the proposed Local Law.

On a motion of Councilperson Blades, seconded by Councilperson Canavan, the following resolution was ADOPTED as follows,

AYES: 5 Supervisor Pierce
Councilperson Blades
Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Denton
Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

Discussion: *There was no further discussion.*

8. New York State Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution
   a. Supervisor Pierce stated that he just added this today, so it's not on the agenda. He said it's the standard workday reporting resolution for elected and appointed officials. He stated that we had a study done by Crystal – because she had increased hours as she is covering both courts. He mentioned that himself, Judge Monty and Councilperson Blades are all retired and it doesn't apply to them. Supervisor Pierce stated that we have to approve this resolution

and then post it on the website for 30 days, certify that it's been viewed for 30 days and then it gets sent down to the state.

RESOLUTION 26-8-3
STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

On a motion of Councilperson Pulsifer, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the following resolution was ADOPTED as follows,

AYES: 5 Supervisor Pierce
Councilperson Blades
Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Denton
Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

Discussion: *There was no further discussion.*

Note: This resolution is NYSLRS form RS 2417-A. There is no physical 26-8-3 Resolution other than the filled out NYSLRS form RS 2417-A.

AUDIT AND PAY BILLS

On a motion of Councilperson Blades, seconded by Councilperson Canavan; motion was approved as follows,

AYES: 5 Supervisor Pierce
Councilperson Blades
Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Denton
Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

The bills contained on Abstract #7 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

General Fund A	Claim No. 63 through 71	$28,659.74
Trust & Agency – TA	Claim No. 59 through 68	$71,839.40
Water Fund SW	Claim No. 16 through 17	$895.36
Highway-DA	Claim No. 16 through 17	$18,021.69
Youth Commission – A	Claim No. 4 through 10	$28,601.16

The bills contained on Abstract #8 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

General Fund	Claim No. 120 through 134	$18,031.12
Highway Fund	Claim No. 44 through 50	$15,442.15
Water Fund	Claim No. 24 through 30	$8,242.40
Youth Commission	Claim No. 10 through 15	$3,860.80

Discussion: *No discussion.*

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Blades, seconded by Councilperson Pulsifer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 P.M. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brianne Drummond
Town Clerk